

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ERIC V. HOLMES,

Plaintiff,

v.

S. SHERMAN, WARDEN, et al.,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 1:CV-05-00588-AWI-LJO-P

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
RECOMMENDING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION  
FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTIVE RELIEF  
BE DENIED

(Doc. 9)

Plaintiff Eric V. Holmes ("plaintiff") is a state prisoner proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis in this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. On June 22, 2005, plaintiff filed a motion seeking a court order requiring prison officials to provide him with adequate medical attention.

"[A] preliminary injunction is an extraordinary and drastic remedy, one that should not be granted unless the movant, by a clear showing, carries the burden of persuasion." Mazurek v. Armstrong, 520 U.S. 968, 972 (1997) (quotations and citations omitted). The purpose of a preliminary injunction is to preserve the status quo if the balance of equities so heavily favors the moving party that justice requires the court to intervene to secure the positions until the merits of the action are ultimately determined. University of Texas v. Camenisch, 451 U.S. 390, 395 (1981). A preliminary injunction is available to a plaintiff who "demonstrates either (1) a combination of probable success and the possibility of irreparable harm, or (2) that serious questions are raised and the balance of hardship tips in its favor." Arcamuzi v. Continental Air Lines, Inc., 819 F. 2d 935, 937 (9th Cir. 1987). Under either approach the plaintiff "must demonstrate a significant threat of

1 irreparable injury.” Id. Also, an injunction should not issue if the plaintiff “shows no chance of  
2 success on the merits.” Id. At a bare minimum, the plaintiff “must demonstrate a fair chance of  
3 success of the merits, or questions serious enough to require litigation.” Id.

4 A federal court is a court of limited jurisdiction. Because of this limited jurisdiction, as a  
5 threshold and preliminary matter the court must have before it for consideration a “case” or  
6 “controversy.” Flast v. Cohen, 392 U.S. 83, 88 (1968). If the court does not have a “case” or  
7 “controversy” before it, it has no power to hear the matter in question. Rivera v. Freeman, 469 F.  
8 2d 1159, 1162-63 (9th Cir. 1972). At this juncture, plaintiff has not stated any cognizable claims  
9 for relief in this action. In a separate order issued concurrently with this Findings and  
10 Recommendations, plaintiff’s complaint was dismissed, with leave to amend, for failure to state a  
11 claim upon which relief may be granted. Thus, at this time, plaintiff is not entitled to any type of  
12 preliminary injunction, as the court lacks jurisdiction to issue any such orders.

13 Based on the foregoing, the court HEREBY RECOMMENDS that plaintiff’s motion for  
14 preliminary injunctive relief, filed June 22, 2005, be DENIED, without prejudice.

15 These Findings and Recommendations will be submitted to the United States District Judge  
16 assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of Title 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within **thirty (30)**  
17 **days** after being served with these Findings and Recommendations, plaintiff may file written  
18 objections with the court. The document should be captioned “Objections to Magistrate Judge’s  
19 Findings and Recommendations.” Plaintiff is advised that failure to file objections within the  
20 specified time may waive the right to appeal the District Court’s order. Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d  
21 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

22  
23 IT IS SO ORDERED.

24 **Dated: September 16, 2005**  
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/s/ Lawrence J. O'Neill  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE